

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, what I am doing just now is posing questions.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : We just object to this. This should be disallowed.

Mr. Speaker : You wanted to ask some questions. I gave you full time. I did not allow Mr. George Fernandes to speak. But I did not obstruct you from speaking. I think, now, it may not be necessary. Let the Minister make a Statement.

12.56 hrs.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MINISTER

Alleged involvement in the large scale transfer of money from U S A into his Account, substantial investment made by him abroad etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLIUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : Sir, Mr. Jaswant Singh has levelled four general allegations against me.

(a) The allegation that I received foreign remittances from questionable sources through cover of NRI relatives is totally unfounded and motivated and I refute the same in its entirety. The Hon. Member has not even cared to indicate the so-called questionable sources. However, I have received the following remittances from my real younger brother, Shri Girish Kumar Sharma, r/o Augusta, Georgia, United States of America, who is settled in the US since 1972 and is now a US citizen:

The total amount received during the

period 1986-87 to 1991-92 was Rs. 42,71,997.09. Shri Girish Kumar Sharma has his own professional management services in USA; he has no business in India. The above remittances received by me through regular banking channels have been reflected in my Income-Tax returns for the relevant assessment years.

(b) The allegation that I have been involved in banking investigations in USA regarding questionable investments abroad is baseless and is denied. I submit that there is no banking investigation of any kind against me in the USA. Here again, the Hon. Member has not bothered to give any particulars of the alleged investigations.

(c) The allegation that I have made substantial investments abroad in various ways, in violation of the country's laws, is baseless and is denied. I submit that I have not made any investment abroad. Accordingly, the questions of my violating our laws does not arise at all.

(d) The allegation that I have disclosed Government policy to unauthorised people before any official announcement is baseless and is denied. The Hon. Member has not once again cared to point out which Government policy was disclosed to unauthorised people. However, I may take this opportunity of pointing out that the allegations published in the *Indian Express* relate to some FAX communication regarding the disclosure of Discovered Oil Field Programme. I may submit that this Programme was approved by the Government as early as 2nd July, 1992 which was announced globally by means of booklets. Hence, there is no question of my disclosing it to any person unauthorisedly. I would also like to add that to the best of my knowledge, the two names, namely, Shri Girish K. Sharma, Shri Arjun Thapar mentioned in the FAX

have no business dealings whatsoever with my Ministry. I was never approached by either of them. Nor have they evinced any interest in any programme/project of my Ministry.

The Hon. Member has stated that he has reports and supplementary documents in his possession. He has not followed elementary principles of natural justice and fair play enshrined in Rule 353 which require that no allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature should be made unless the person against whom such allegations are made is given an opportunity to go through the Material on which the allegations are based. In view thereof, the Hon. Member may not be allowed to make any allegations against me in the absence of supporting material.

If the Hon. Member has any further allegation to make, he is bound under the Rules to disclose to the Hon. Speaker in the form of Notice and I would like to reply them also.

**13.00 hrs.**

Having regard to the above submissions, it will be noticed that the allegations made by Shri Jaswant Singh, MP are entirely unfounded. The allegations are vague and contain no details of charges levelled against me. They are intended to damage my reputation. They are politically motivated and deserve to be rejected outright.

*[Translation]*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Mujaffarpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have given a copy of the letter to him which was addressed to you. But he has not replied to any of my query in his statement. I have not

leaked out any documents. I have written a four page letter to him. I have sent all relevant documents and if more documents are required, that too would be provided. But he has not said anything about those documents.

Mr. Speaker : Kindly tell me under which rule you are asking for permission ? Whatever comes to your mind or my mind cannot be discussed here.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Mujaffarpur) : Under Rule 353. The allegations have been made by SHRI JASWANT SINGH.

Mr. Speaker : Rule 353 deals with the procedure that if you want to speak against anyone, how you can do that.

*[English]*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittogarth) : You are entirely right. Rule 355 entitles us, has laid down a procedure for asking questions. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : I would like to make a very brief submission.

Mr. Speaker : I will allow you. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittogarth) : This rule is for making an allegation.

Mr. Speaker : For discussion.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Allegation for discussion. Now the Hon. Minister has, well within his right, denied all the allegations. I am not satisfied by this denial; and naturally, he is not satisfied with my allegations. Where do we go from there? *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker : You do not ask me. You, yourself, has to find our a procedure.

*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker : You cannot ask that question from the House. There is a Rules of Procedure book. Then there is a Constitution. You follow the procedure.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is a very simple denial. *(interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : I want to draw your attention to rule 357. It reads as follows :

" A member may, with the permission of the Speaker, make a personal explanation although there is no question before the House, but in this case, no debatable matter may be brought forward, and no debate shall arise. ? *(Interruptions)*

SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES : I am on a point of order. My point of order relates to Rule 353.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, Please consider my Point of order first.....

Mr. Speaker : I am upholding your point of order. You need not ask a question for that.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I want to read it out. It reads as follows:

" No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given an adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the Minister con-

cerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply. "

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker Sir, yesterday the issue was raised after giving proper notice.

*[English]*

It reads further as follows:

Provided that the Speaker may at any time prohibit any member from making any such allegation if he is of opinion that such allegation is derogatory to the dignity of the House or that no public interest is served by making such allegation. "

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker : Please read further.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, you are right that everything should be submitted in writing and documents should also be produced. We could have submitted that

*[English]*

' I charge you, I allege, I assume '

*[Translation]*

But I did not say all this. We put up questions in gentle manner to the Hon. Minister. Under rule 353 all those questions should necessarily be replied to. I raised the questions in such a manner so that if he wants to enquire he can do it easily. That's why we submitted brief questions. If the Hon. Minister takes refuge under the rules and refuses to answer any questions then it will become difficult for us to raise such matters of public importance in the House.

I would like to recall that at the time when we raised the issue of securities scam in the House it was said that the opposition is being irresponsible. However the scam turned out to be true. I would like to submit that under the rule quoted by you our questions should have been replied to and discussion allowed. The curtain cannot be brought down by saying that a statement has been made in the House.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

13.07 hrs.

DELHI URBAN ART COMMISSION (MINISTERIAL AND NON MINISTERIAL POSTS) RECRUITMENT (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1983.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) ON BEHALF OF SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL : I beg to lay on the table: I—

A copy of the Delhi Urban Art Commission (Ministerial and Non-Ministerial Posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Regulations, 1993 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 3(8)/86-DUAC in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 1993 under sub-section (2) of section 27 of the Delhi Urban Art Commission Act, 1973.

[Placed in Library See. No. LT 4878/93]

REVIEWS ON THE WORKING AND ANNUAL REPORT OF BHARAT IMMUNOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL CORPORA-

TION .LTD. BHULANSHAR FOR 1992-93 AND INDIAN VACCINES CORPORATION .LTD. GURGAON FOR 1992-1993 ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) ON BEHALF OF SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : I beg to lay on the Table : I— I

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 : I— I

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Bharat Immunological and Biological Corporation Limited, Bulandshahr, for the year 1992-93.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Immunological and Biological Corporation Limited, Bulandshahr, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4879/93]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Vaccines Corporation Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 1992-93.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian